

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00
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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3675

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: EAGR, ECON, EIND, PINT, PL, UR

SUBJ: 60TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE BALTIC REPUBLICS

1. SUMMARY. TALLINN 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WERE MUTED AND DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO ESTONIAN SENSIBILITIES. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNTS IN PRINCIPAL PARTY NEWSPAPERS, THE SPEECHES MARKING THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN THE BALTIC REPUBLICS GENERALLY REVEALED SATISFACTION WITH ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE BUT PROVIDED LITTLE STATISTICAL INFORMATION. BAD WEATHER WAS BLAMED FOR APPARENTLY INDIFFERENT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PARTY LEADERS IN LITHUANIA AND LATVIA REPORTED EFFORTS TO ASSIST SPREAD OF SPECIALIZATION AND CONCENTRATION IN AGRICULTURE. APPARENTLY HIGHEST LEVEL FOREIGN GUEST IN BALTIC CAPITALS FOR HOLIDAYS WAS POLAND'S GIEREK WHO VISITED LITHUANIA ON EVE OF ANNIVERSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. JUDGING BY OBSERVATIONS MADE DURING NOVEMBER 8-10 VISIT TO CITY BY CONGENOFFS, 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN TALLINN WERE GIVEN STRONG ESTONIAN CAST, WITH ALL-UNION ASPECTS PLAYED DOWN. PORTRAITS OF
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LENIN, INTER ALIA ACCEPTABLE FOR HIS NATIONALITY POLICIES, PREDOMINATED, WITH A FEW KARL MARX PORTRAITS ALSO TO BE SEEN. HOWEVER, CONGENOFFS SAW NO BREZHNEV, OR INDEED USSR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP, PORTRAITS WITH SOLE EXCEPTION OF ROW OF EQUAL-SIZED PORTRAITS OF ALL MEMBERS OF POLITBURO ON FRONT OF CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUILDING ON MAIN SQUARE IN BACK OF REVIEWING STAND. ON THIS

DISPLAY, BREZHNEV AND KOSYGIN WERE LOCATED SIDE-BY-SIDE ABOVE THE OTHERS, BUT UNDER DOMINATING LARGER PORTRAIT OF LENING. NO PORTRAITS OF ESTONIAN FIRST PARTY SECRETARY KEBIN AND OTHER ESTONIAN PARTY LEADERS WERE SEEN. CITY DECORATIONS STRUCK US AS JUST ABOUT MINIMUM POSSIBLE FOR SUCH MAJOR ANNIVERSARY AND CONSISTED MAINLY OF SMALL PLAIN RED SQUARE FLAGS, ESTONIAN REPUBLIC FLAGS, AND MODEST-SIZED BANNERS IN ESTONIAN AND RUSSIAN, OR JUST ESTONIAN, LANGUAGE ON MAIN PARTY OR PUBLIC BUILDINGS. THERE WAS COMPLETE ABSENCE OF SOVIET FLAGS. ONLY OCCASIONAL SHOP WINDOWS IN DOWNTOWN AREA CARRIED ANY 60TH ANNIVERSARY MATERIALS AT ALL AND MATERIAL CARRIED WAS GENERALLY UNOSTENTATIOUS. NOVEMBER 7 FESTIVITIES CONSISTED OF MILITARY PARADE WITH SOME MILITARY HARDWARE FOLLOWED BY USUAL WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION. WE WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN RELIABLE COMPARISON OF PARADE AND DEMONSTRATION WITH PREVIOUS YEARS BUT CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOREIGN RELATIONS CHIEF KATI LAELL TOLD US THAT MILITARY HARDWARE DISPLAY WAS QUITE MODEST AND RARE FOR TALLINN, TAKING PLACE ONLY ON MILESTONE OCCASIONS. DECORATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS AS WHOLE SEEMED REFLECT PRUDENT ASSESSMENT TO GO EASY IN CITY WHERE ANTI-SOVIET SENTIMENT CONTINUES RUN HIGH.

3. ANNIVERSARY SPEECH OF REPUBLIC PARTY FIRST SECRETARY KEBIN REPORTED THAT, DESPITE BAD WEATHER, LOCAL GRAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTION HAD BEEN 28.6 CENTNERS PER HECTARE (IN CONTRAST TO OVER 31 CENTNERS PER HECTARE LAST YEAR), AND THAT TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION HAD BEEN OVER 1.2 MILLION TONS. KEBIN GAVE FEW OTHER ECONOMIC STATISTICS, SUGGESTING THAT OVERALL ESTONIAN PRODUCTION WAS NOT TO BE BOASTED ABOUT.

4. IN HIS SPEECH AT CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY, LITHUANIAN PARTY FIRST SECRETARY GRISHKYAVICHYUS REPORTED THAT HIS REPUBLIC HAD SURPASSED ITS TEN-MONTH PRODUCTION QUOTAS BY ALMOST 77 MILLION RUBLES BUT COMPLAINED THAT "LOSSES IN WORKING TIME ARE GREAT DUE TO VIOLATIONS OF TECHNICAL AND LABOR DISCIPLINE," AS WELL AS ABSENTEEISM AND NEGLIGENCE. IN THE AGRICULTURAL SPHERE GRISHKYAVICHYUS REPORTED THAT SPECIALIZATION AND CONCENTRATION BASED ON INTERUNIT COOPERATION HAVE OPENED THE WAY TO INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY. HE STATED THAT COLLECTIVE AND STATE FARMS, "ENTERING INTO INTERUNIT ASSOCIATIONS (MEZHKHOSYAISTVENNYE OB'EDINENIYE) ARE CONCENTRATING RESOURCES" ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE STOCK-RAISING

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COMPLEXES "OF THE INDUSTRIAL TYPE" WITH A VIEW TO NARROWER
SPECIALIZATION. IN THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THIS YEAR
STATE PROCUREMENT WAS UP OVER THAT OF LAST YEAR BY THE
FOLLOWING PERCENTAGES: LIVESTOCK FIVE PERCENT,
MILK EIGHT PERCENT, AND EGGS 19 PERCENT.

5. POLISH PARTY FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK VISITED LITHUANIA
FROM NOVEMBER 3 TO 6. IN A SPEECH AT CEREMONIES ON
NOVEMBER 4 GIEREK PRAISED LITHUANIA'S TREATMENT OF ITS
ETHNIC POLISH POPULATION, CITING THE TEACHING OF
THE POLISH LANGUAGE AND THE PRESERVATION OF TIES WITH
POLISH CULTURE AND WITH POLAND ITSELF. IN HIS SPEECH
ON THIS OCCASION GRISHKYAVICHYUS REPORTED THAT AN OIL
REFINERY WILL BE BUILT IN THE CITY OF MAZEIKIAI. THE
REFINERY WILL BE FED BY A PIPELINE FROM THE FRIENDSHIP
PIPELINE CONSTRUCTED FROM POLOTSK AND WILL PROVIDE
PRODUCTS TO THE NORTHWESTERN USSR AND TO POLAND.

6. LATVIA. PARTY FIRST SECRETARY VOSS REPORTED FURTHER
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE BASIS OF SPECIALIZATION
AND CONCENTRATION, NOTING HOWEVER THAT THERE IS STILL
A GREAT DEAL OF ROOM FOR FURTHER AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION.
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HE STATED THAT, DESPITE BAD WEATHER, LATVIA HAD
DELIVERED 255,000 TONS OF GRAIN, EXCEEDING THE PLAN BY
23,000 TONS. HE STATED THAT THE PLAN LEVELS OF DELIVERIES
OF MEAT, MILK, AND EGGS HAD BEEN MET. THE INDUSTRIAL
PLAN, VOSS SAID, HAD BEEN OVERFILLED BY 82 MILLION
RUBLES FOR THE FIRST TEN MONTHS OF THE YEAR.BUCHANAN

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